United States Marshals Service



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"America's Most Wanted" Fugitive Caught by U.S. Marshals Task Force in Portland, Oregon

Portland, OR -- When Karl Goeke was profiled on FOX's "America's Most Wanted" in late February 2006, no one suspected that he was living in Portland, OR. Goeke's warrant was issued in Cecil County, Maryland on September 21, 2005, charging him with child sexual abuse and nine counts of 2nd degree sex offense involving young boys.

When the Cecil County Sheriff's Office sought help from the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Marshals Capital Area Regional Task Force and the U.S. Marshals Pacific Southwest Regional Task Force sprung into action investigating leads in central California. One of the victims, who is now 33 years-old, courageously spoke to police and identified two other of Goeke's friends who participated in the sexual abuse. Those friends, Donald Acheson Smith and John Neisworth, were located and arrested in September 2005, but Goeke found out about the warrant and disappeared. According to police, the victims described the acts as "horrific and monstrous." To make matters worse, Goeke originally gained the trust from the victim's parents by telling them he was a school counselor.

Deputy marshals learned that Goeke may have been residing in Portland, OR, so investigators from the Pacific Southwest Regional Task Force—which includes members of the Los Angeles Police Department—joined forces with members of the U.S. Marshals Oregon Fugitive Task Force. One day later, Marshals uncovered Goeke's new assumed alias, "Bruce Thomas Makowski." The alias had one problem. Bruce Thomas Makoski died in 1997. Task Force members knew they had the wrong name, but the right guy—Karl Goeke, so the Task Force set up surveillance in NW Portland.

On March 22, 2006, at 5:30 PM, Karl Goeke answered his apartment door and was greeted by Marshals Task Force members. As Goeke was being arrested, he stated his true name, even though a California driver's license and social security card said he was Bruce Thomas Makowski.

The U.S. Marshals Oregon Fugitive Task Force is made up of personnel from the U.S. Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Portland Police Bureau, the Oregon State Police, the Oregon National Guard, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, the North Plains Police Department, the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, and the Clackamas County Department of Community Corrections,. In 2005, the U.S. Marshals Service cleared by arrest 89,687 felony warrants, including 38,417 Federal warrants and 51,270 state and local warrants. For more information on this case, you can go to www.amw.com (Karl Goeke photographs are available here). For more information on the U.S. Marshals Service and other fugitives you can go to www.usmarshals.gov.